

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format within 48 hours of the date the meeting was held. With the exception of motions and votes recorded, these minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting, noted in the meeting minutes, and voted upon.

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Scotland, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020

Chairperson Brynn Lipstreu called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Present were Board members Sherry Smardon (7:20 PM), Steven Kurcinik, Cassidy Martin, Scott Sears, Rod Perry and Bill Trudelle. Administrators present were Principal Dr. Catherine Pinsonneault and Finance Coordinator Tim Smith. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CELEBRATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

- Thanks to the Parish Hill students for coming to Scotland to read to students PreK -3rd grade.
- Thanks to the Spirit Committee for Stop, Drop and Read in the hallway.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

The Board received letters regarding a recent issue with a book in the classroom and an ongoing investigation that cannot be read due to Personnel Issues.

5. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE:

- Brynn Lipstreu read Board policy regarding conduct while speaking at a meeting.
- New parent to town Freda read a paragraph from a book students read in the classroom that was offensive and inappropriate for children. The book was removed from the classroom and the teacher is back in the classroom.
- Courtney Lawrence expressed concerns with the lack of judgement used by the teacher's book selection that exposes children to violence. The theme of the book is not appropriate for this age group. She left the book with the Board with many pages marked with inappropriate language.
- Kimberly Ausberger who works in the classroom is very sorry students were exposed to the book. She spoke highly of the teacher and feels the book selection was a mistake.
- Michelle Murray expressed concerns with the disturbing choice made by the teacher and the supervision of teachers. The book forces parents to have a conversation with their children they may not be ready to have. She suggests the Board review their policies on reading materials.

6. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS MAY BE CONSIDERED AT A REGULAR MEETING UPON A 2/3 VOTE OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT AND VOTING, PER STATE STATUTE: #1-20/21 Motion to add to agenda as Item #12A, Review Process of Reviewing and Purchasing of Materials including Recent Purchases, was made by Brynn Lipstreu, seconded by Steve Kurcinik and carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#2-20/21 Motion to approve February 11, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, was made by Sherry Smardon with the following correction: Correct the date of the minutes to February 11, 2020. The motion was seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

#3-20/21 Motion to approve February 19, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, was made by Sherry Sardon with the following correction: Item #2 – correct name of First Selectman Gary Greenberg. **The motion was seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.**

8. FINANCE COORDINATOR REPORT:

A. Financial Report:

The Financial Reports were reviewed. No extraordinary expenses occurred this month.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

#4-20/21 Motion to approve Financial Statement dated February 26, 2020, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. 2019-2020 Calendar Update

B. 2020-2021 Draft Calendar

C. Fire Inspection Report

D. Solar Panel Update

E. Lunch Program Update

F. Afterschool Program Report

G. Teacher Evaluation (TEVAL) Update

H. Bus Propane Usage

Above items 9A to 9H are tabled until the next meeting.

I. FY2020-2021 Budget:

Brynn Lipstreu and Rod Perry attended the insurance meeting. Health Insurance will remain with Connecticutare that was reduced from a 5% increase to a 2.7% increase for medical and a 0% increase for dental.

J. Other: Tabled until the next meeting

10. PRINCIPAL REPORT:

A. Professional Development Opportunities:

Current recertification for PMT Training is finished. Training for a trainer is still pending.

B. Current Enrollment:

Enrollment is down by 1 for a total of 106.

C. Other:

March is a busy month.

11. FRIENDS OF SES REPORT:

Michelle Murray presented the following activities for Friends of SES:

- Family Nights on Thursdays
- Movie Night on March 13th
- 5th/6th grade Middle School Dance in May with all three elementary schools to help make transition to Parish Hill easier

- Many fun activities are in the works including an Easter Egg Hunt

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review Process of Reviewing and Purchasing of Materials including Recent Purchases:

The Board was presented with Policy #6160 Instructional Resources and Textbooks and Policy #6161.1 Evaluation of Instructional Materials and Programs that will be sent to the Policy Committee for review along with any other related policies. Dr. Pinsonneault will be invited to attend the Policy Committee meeting

13. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2020-2021 Calendar (Action Anticipated):

The Board was presented with Version A Calendar (school open on Veteran's Day) and Version B (school closed on Veteran's Day). The staff is in favor of having school open. Hampton Elementary, Chaplin Elementary and Parish Hill have no school on Veteran's Day. Sherry Smardon suggested keeping all schools on the same schedule due to impact on transportation, the last day of school and to maintain consistency.

#5-20/21 Motion to approve 2020-2021 Version B School Calendar that includes day off for Veteran's Day, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

B. Second read Policies (5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due process & 5144.4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students:

Tabled until the next meeting. Any revisions should be sent to Steve Kurcinik.

C. School Climate Committee: No Report

D. BOE Communication Plan:

Sherry Smardon will send a draft BOE Communication Plan to each Board member and present at the next meeting for a First Read.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Tri-Town BOE Meeting Update:

Contact will be initiated again after the budget per suggestion from Hampton.

B. CABE/EASTCONN:

Rod Perry reported that EASTCONN is working on kitchen issue that will not affect Scotland Elementary.

C. Readiness Council Report:

An official notice was received from Chaplin via email that they are not interested in joining the School Readiness Council.

D. Communications Committee: No Report

E. Policies Committee: No Report

F. Technology Committee: No Report

G. Citizen's Advisory Committee:

The Committee is getting ready with a survey and looking at the best way to filter through the town possibly through Monkey Survey. The next step will be how to involve the community. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7th at 6pm before the regular Scotland BOE meeting. Sherry Smardon will attend as Board liaison.

15. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

- Lyn Johnson asked the Board to review Policy #6163 that pertains to any textbook that must be formally adopted by the Board of Education.
- Michelle Murray would like to be positive moving forward and reflect on relationships with trusted teachers. She asked who is being named as Superintendent to address administrative issues.
- Courtney Lawrence expressed concerns with safety and supervision and would like to see another adult in the classroom.
- Brynn Lipstreu reported that support is available for any students impacted by the book in question. She also reported that the power of the Board lies in policy that governs the structure of the school.
- Bill Trudelle suggested a seasoned teacher as a mentor substitute for the classroom.
- Sherry Smardon suggested checking with neighboring towns (Chaplin, Hampton, Parish Hill, Canterbury and Sprague) to share a sub and advertise for a long term sub.
- Dr. Pinsonneault was asked to use a Substitute in the class for now and work with parents for a backup plan in case the Substitute is needed to cover for another teacher.

16. NEXT STEP HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

- The Board will review Policies 5114 and 5144.4 and direct any feedback to Steve Kurcinik.
- Sherry Smardon will represent the Board on the Citizen's Advisory Committee.
- Sherry Smardon will email the Board a draft BOE Communication Plan.
- Steve Kurcinik will set Policy Committee meeting to review Policy #6160, Policy #6161.1 and any other policies in the 6000 series related to purchasing.

17. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- First Read Draft Communication Plan
- 2020-21 Budget
- Second Read Policy 5114 and 5144.4

18. ADJOURNMENT:

#6-19/20 Motion to adjourn (8:07 PM) was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

***Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk***